

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant appreciates the time and courtesy extended by the Examiner during the August 22, 2007 telephone interview with Applicant's representative. As discussed during the interview, the Examiner agreed that Applicant's proposed amendments to independent Claims 7, 13 and 19, which claim amendments are being formally filed with this paper, sufficiently differentiated these claims over United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0103932 to Bilbrey et al. so that the §102(e) rejection would be withdrawn.

Briefly, during the interview, the Examiner agreed that the Bilbrey et al. reference fails to disclose "determining domain information associated with each of the rest of the members of the determined message list" and then "specifying a server, based upon the determined domain information, to which the absence response information is to be provided; and distributing the absence response information to the specified server or servers," as recited in amended independent Claim 7. Similar features related to specifying one or more servers based upon domain information have also been added to independent Claims 13 and 19. In contrast, in the device of Bilbrey et al., there is no specifying a server, based on domain information, because in Bilbrey et al., the change of address information (or at least part of it) is only provided to the server of the "sponsor" that requested the information, as also discussed during the telephonic interview.

Claims 7-9, 13-15, 19-21, 25 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0103932 to

Bilbrey et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed during the telephonic interview, as summarized above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this §102(e) rejection.

For all of the above reasons, and for the reasons discussed during the telephonic interview, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 23, 2007
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